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# The Pipeline



## The Nation Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*By Dean Crawford, OTS*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is Monday Jan. 21. The holiday celebrating the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. always falls on the third Monday in January. King was born on Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia.

President Ronald Reagan signed the legislation creating the King holiday in November 1983, ending a highly organized effort of 15 years. The holiday was first celebrated Jan. 20, 1986. Kentucky, one of the last states to celebrate the King holiday, held its first official observance in January 1993.

U.S. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan introduced legislation creating the holiday in 1968, four days after King's assassination. With help from Rep. Shirley Chisholm of New York, Conyers resubmitted the legislation to congress many times.

Martin Luther King died on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. He was assassinated while in Memphis supporting striking African American sanitation workers.

Petitions containing more than six million signatures supporting the King holiday were submitted to Congress in 1970. It was believed to be the largest petition drive in history. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, created by King, coordinated the

petition campaign and kept continuous pressure on Congress to create the holiday.

Two of the arguments opposing the King holiday had been used for decades to resist any new holiday: The holiday would cost too much, and King shouldn't be singled out over others. The estimated total cost of the holiday was \$8 billion for the government and private sector combined. Some of the resistance to the King holiday had racial overtones, and one southern senator refused to support the holiday because he believed King was a communist.

Finally, Rep. Katie Hall of Indiana offered a compromise that gained support in Congress for the legislation. Hall moved the holiday to the third Monday of January in response to criticism that Jan. 15 would be too close to the Christmas-New Year's week. The idea of a three-day weekend, plus the fact that the third Monday in January often follows Super Bowl Sunday, helped put the measure over the top.

Martin Luther King, Jr. is the only American besides George Washington to have national holiday designated for his birthday. The King holiday was the first holiday created since 1948, when Memorial Day was created as a "prayer for peace" day. And it was the third and last holiday of the Twentieth Century. The first was Veterans Day, created in 1926 as Armistice Day to honor those who died in World War I.

## Santa Photos Still Available for Pick Up

If you or your child had your photo taken with Santa in the CHR or Health Services

Buildings, you can pick them up in the Health Services Secretary's office on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the CHR Building. Call Kay Hill at 564-7042 for more information.



## Kentucky a Leader in Education Spending for Low-income Families



By Lisa Wallace, CFC Communications

Kentucky is one of only five states that spend more than 3 percent of their combined state and federal welfare funds on education and training for low-income families, according to figures recently released by the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services. The Cabinet for Families and Children administers Kentucky's welfare programs.

Kentucky spent 4 percent, or \$10.8 million, of its welfare funding on education and training in the 2000 federal fiscal year. Although 41 states reported spending some money on education and training, only Kentucky, Delaware, Louisiana, Montana and South Carolina spent more than 3 percent of their federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and state Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds on education and training. The national average is less than 1 percent.

"Gov. Patton has made education a high priority, and the General Assembly supported administration goals by funding effective education and training provisions in the current budget," said Jeanne Baldwin, executive director of the Cabinet's Office of Program Support. It is not known how much of the state's welfare funding will be earmarked for education and training programs in the next biennial budget, in part because Congress has yet to finalize TANF reauthorization measures.

Under federal TANF guidelines, states may use welfare funds for education and training expenditures, such as adult education, GED classes, job-related education, vocational education and postsecondary education. Early childhood education, after-school and summer enrichment programs for elementary and junior high school children are not included in this spending.

Among the cabinet's education and training programs for welfare recipients is the award-winning Ready to Work program, a partnership with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). The program helps prepare welfare recipients for employment by enrolling students in KCTCS institutions and providing additional support services, such as tutoring, mentoring and counseling, work experiences, job placement activities and special initiatives to help keep students in school.

In April 2001, the Ready to Work program received one of three 2001 Model Program Awards presented by the American Association of Women in Community Colleges.

The current state budget provides funds and directs the cabinet to make education and training programs available to at least 7 percent of the state's eligible public assistance recipients to enhance their employment opportunities and self-sufficiency success.

To be eligible, welfare recipients must participate in the Kentucky Works Program (KWP). Ordinarily, KWP participants must take part in work or training activities 20 hours a week (or more, depending on their children's ages), but those enrolled in postsecondary education can be exempted from these additional requirements for up to two years.

The proportion of KWP participants taking advantage of the education and training option grew from less than 11.5 percent in state fiscal year 2000 to 15.7 percent in 2001.

Kentucky also exceeded the national spending average of 7.7 percent for "other work-related activities" during the 2000 federal fiscal year. Kentucky spent 15 percent, or \$40.8 million, of its welfare funds on work-related programs and services other than school-based education and training. Eligible activities in this funding category include work experiences and community service activities, on-the-job

training, job search and readiness skills development, employment counseling, information and referral, outreach to business and non-profit groups and transitional assistance for individuals who have moved from welfare to work.

Families and Children Cabinet Secretary Viola Miller said both the Model Program Award and Kentucky's standing as a national leader in providing education and training to low-income families reflect "the worthiest of welfare reform objectives: to equip welfare recipients for a better life by erasing limits" on opportunities for them to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

Nationwide and in Kentucky, the majority of TANF/MOE funds are used to provide providing basic assistance and child care. The national average spending for these items equals 73.1 percent of total welfare funding. In Kentucky, basic assistance and child care make up 55 percent, or about \$151.5 million, of the state's total TANF/MOE spending.

Kentucky is also among 29 states which reported decreases in welfare caseloads from September 2000 to September 2001. The average decline during this period was 6.6 percent; Kentucky's was 11 percent.

The national rate of decline for welfare caseloads dropped to 1 percent from March to September 2001, with most states reporting caseload increases. Kentucky's welfare caseload decreased by 4 percent during the same period, making it one of only 17 states where caseloads declined.

## Sick Leave Needs



Marlene Duvall, Division of Child Care, is in need of donated sick leave. To donate leave time, contact Anitra Williams at 564-2524.



## Assistance Available for Kentuckians to Heat Homes

*By Anya Weber, CFC Communications*

Kentucky families on the verge of having their utilities disconnected may qualify for assistance to warm their homes this winter.

Kentucky's Community Action Agencies (CAAs) administer the federal funds for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). On Jan. 7, the program of short-term aid shifted from subsidy mode to crisis mode, in which different eligibility criteria apply.

Subsidy mode operates in November and December and is available to clients at or below 110 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. To qualify for assistance in the crisis mode, Kentuckians must meet those income standards and be in a crisis situation. Examples of a crisis situation include receiving a disconnect or past-due notice from a utility or having no more than a four-day supply of other fuel types, such as firewood or propane. In crisis mode, qualifying clients may receive up to \$100 in cumulative aid.

Usually, LIHEAP serves about 150,000 families annually in Kentucky, but last winter's freezing temperatures and spiking fuel prices drove up demand for the aid. LIHEAP funding to Kentucky totaled \$28.9 million last fiscal year, when 154,000 families received subsidy assistance and 71,000 received crisis assistance.

Even though temperatures are milder and heating costs are lower, state LIHEAP funds haven't lasted long this year because there's less money in the program.

Kentucky's LIHEAP account for the 2002 fiscal year began at \$18.7 million.

Funds will be available until they run out or March 15. Kentucky has enough LIHEAP money in hand to last only about two more weeks, but about \$4 million appropriated in a new law will soon be allotted to the state program.

So far this year, subsidy assistance has gone to about 94,000 Kentucky families—some of whom may still be paying last year's high utility bills.

The U.S. Department for Health and Human Services provides the LIHEAP funds. Kentucky's 23 CAA offices administer the assistance statewide through a contract between the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children and the Kentucky Association for Community Action.

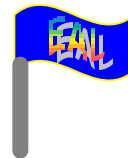
For more information about LIHEAP or a list of CAAs, call the Kentucky Association for Community Action at (800) 456-3452 or log onto <http://www.kaca.org/>.

The Cabinet serves its customers comprehensively and can help them find other available energy assistance provided by local service agencies.



## The Basic Principles of Professional Behavior:

1. Preserve the integrity of others.
2. Practice active listening.
3. Involve others in problem solving.
4. Be accountable for your actions



*If you know someone who continually radiates the values projected by EAL, we want to know. Send items to:*  
[patricia.boler@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:patricia.boler@mail.state.ky.us)



*By Patricia Boler, CFC Communications*

In this issue of Pipeline, we would like to introduce Mark F. Bengel, CFC's new Executive Director of the Office of Technology Services.

Mark Bengel is a native of Orange County California. He holds two degrees in biology, one from Cypress College in Los Angeles, where he graduated in 1978, and one from Cleveland College, also in Los Angeles, which he received in 1982. Shortly thereafter, Mark began his information technology (IT) career in the medical applications industry.

Before joining CFC, Mark held the position of Director of Operations for Gaylord Information Systems, where he managed the Infrastructure, Special Projects, Conversion Services, Implementations, Training and Customer Services branches.

Mark has experience in programming, systems analysis, application design and development and management spanning more than 17 years in professional IT, during which he has served private industry as well as government. That experience includes five years with city government in Eugene, Ore.

To be closer to family and friends, Mark and his wife decided last year to move to her home state of Kentucky.

Mark chose to work for Kentucky government, as he had found his previous government experience to be the most gratifying of his career. "When I interviewed with the Cabinet," he said, "I felt I had found my home."

Be sure to welcome Mark to the CFC family. CFC will benefit to the highest degree from his expertise.